

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-8 currently remain in the application. Claims 9-15 have been withdrawn and are to be canceled upon allowance of the application. No claim is herein amended.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Yoshizawa, and claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Kendall.

Yoshizawa was cited by the Examiner for disclosing "diamond grain cluster of less than 100Å in average size" but a more careful reading will inform the reader that Yoshizawa's diamond clusters are "round" particles and clusters of very small polycrystalline diamond particles unlike prior art diamond particles ([0011] of JP 5-156239). The cluster particles limited by the claim language of claim 1 are particles "with corners comprising monocrystalline diamond particles". METADI catalog shows "sharp edges of monocrystalline diamonds" and "angular, blocky-shaped polycrystalline diamonds". This tends to show that it is public knowledge that round edges and angular, blocky-shaped edges are distinguishable, notwithstanding the Examiner's statement that roundish diamond grain inherently includes corners (lines 1-2 of page 3 of the Official Letter).

As for Kendall, there is only the description of a product having a polishing layer with diamond particles bonded by a binder to a backing sheet [0018]. Only the material of the particles forming cluster particles is described. There is no description of any cluster particles or coagulated particles within polishing slurry decomposed to an appropriate degree as the slurry is supplied onto the surface of a magnetic hard disk substrate and pressed by a polishing tape, such decomposed particles also acting on the surface of the magnetic hard disk substrate together with the cluster particles and coagulated cluster particles (page 7, line 31 to page 7, line 5 of the specification).

In summary, the claims currently being rejected are distinguishable from any of the cited references in that they relate to polishing slurry containing cluster particles of monocrystalline diamond particles.

It is therefore believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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